(b) and (c) Taking into consideration the size and nature of operations, multiple handling of foodgrains, deterioration in quality during storage, moisture loss, movement over long distances, theft and pilferage etc. certain shortages are inevitable and cannot be totally eliminated. Food Corporation of India has not fixed any norms for losses so far.

(d) The Food Corporation of India has taken a number of steps to reduce losses on account of storage and transit shortages. Important measures taken in this regard are:

(a) Procurement of foodgrains within the specifications;

(b) Reduction in the quantum of filling in each bag;

(c) Weighment and counting of bags and installation of weigh-bridges in depots having capacity of 5000 tonnes or more;

(d) Minimising the use of open wagons;

(e) Administrative measures such as tightening of security, intensifying surprise checks, quality control etc.

(f) Augmentation of covered storage capacity of FCI.

Construction of houses for slum dwellers

584. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed for slum dwellers during the first four years of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of such houses out of the above constructed in greater Bombay; and

(c) the number of such houses out of above constructed in greater Bombay on the land owned by different departments of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The present policy of the Government emphasises on environmental improvement of urban slums *in situ* rather than their massive clearance and relocation. Accordingly basic amenities are provided under the State sector scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums, funds for which are provided in the State plans and the State Governments formulate and implement appropriate projects in accordance with their needs and priorities. There is no specific scheme for construction of houses for slum dwellers. Isolated projects for construction of houses for slum dwellers may, however, be taken up by the State Governments wherever appropriate. The project for tackling the housing problem & slums in Bombay with Central non-Plan assistance also contains housing component.

Detection of bogus ration cards in Delhi

585. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bogus ration cards detected during a random check of the fair price shops in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that bogus ration cards are issued in collusion with Fair price Shop owners and officers of Civil Supplies Department;

(c) what action Government propose to take to weed out bogus ration cards; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against those found guilty for generating the bogus cards detected in the random check?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BHITHA): (a) to (d) Delhi Administration has stated that the food cards are issued to the eligible applicants on the basis of documentary evidence of residence. Card holders are required to surrender food cards to the Circle Office from where food cards were issued when they move their residence. Sometimes, this is not done

and these food cards continue to exist. An appeal was made to the general public to surrender such cards. The Administration has also drawn a plan to conduct checking of food cards with Fair Price Shops selected at random. Under this plan, over 62000 food cards have been checked and in more than 14,600 cases, persons have not been found residing at the addresses given in the food cards. In such cases, the supply of specified food articles was stopped forthwith.

Establishment of Minorities Development Banks/Corporations in States/Union Territories

586. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minorities development banks/corporations have been established in a number of States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the names of such States/Union Territories;

(c) whether Government also propose to establish such a bank/corporation under the Central Government in pursuance of Prime Minister's 15-point programme for the welfare of the minorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Uttar Pradesh
(ii) Bihar
(iii) Karnataka
(iv) Andhra Pradesh
(v) Gujarat
(vi) Assam

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government. The Banking System and financial institutions are adequate to look after the credit needs in all deserving cases including those of Minorities.

Survey conducted for new copper mines in Madhya Pradesh

587. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of copper is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the annual demand of copper;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted for the exploration of new copper mines in the country and particularly in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The estimated demand of copper since 1986-87 is indicated below:—

Unit: Tonnes

Year	Assessed demand
1986-87	1,04,000
1987-88	1,28,000
1988-89	1,35000
1989-90 (Projection)	1,35,000

(c) and (d) During the last three years, Geological Survey of India (GSI) carried out exploration for copper at various base metal fields in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Also during the last three years, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has carried out detailed exploration of known copper deposits in the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and at Malanjkhand in Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh.

As per information furnished by the survey and exploration agencies, the estimated reserve of Malanjkhand deposit is 84.83 million tonnes of ore with 1.39 per cent copper, 125 million tonnes of submarginal resource with 0.88 per cent copper and 213 million tonnes of prospective resource with 1.03 per cent copper, totalling to about 423 million tonnes of copper ore.